From: Tim Bithoney
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 9:53am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

I do not like the proposed settlement at all, it gives NO rights to the Open Source community who in fact wrote most of the software that makes up the internet today! Without Open Source we would have never had a web server, a mail server a web browser or CGI!!!

Microsoft has used there tactics long enough to squeeze out the competition... Its a far inferior product but because it got some early footholds in the industry and made sure to keep them by playing dirty and stealing others ideas left and right (read Apple's ideas).

Give them a real punishment. MONEY. Make them fork over $3billion for education and spend it on Macintosh computers. Or maybe some Linux systems, so a young child can see what makes up his OS, and learn about it, extend it and become part of it, while building a SMARTER America!!!

And make sure they can no longer do things like require an OEM to not sell a system with any other OS except Windows if they sell Windows too. Yeah MS does this!!! Including Internet Explorer is the LEAST of our worries. Also they should be FORCED to publish information on how there protocols work. Especially since they base them on Open Standards and give no credit or monetary support to the community that maintains and generates those standards.

Tim Bithoney